Setting up of IRDA Headquarters at Hyderabad

*435. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Central Government to locate the Headquarters of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is presently located in Delhi. Government has constituted the Authority only on 19th April, 2000 with the appointment of Chairperson and two whole time Members. Government has received requests from several State Governments including Andhra Pradesh to locate the headquarters in their States. The requests would be considered for appropriate decision, at the appropriate time.

Development of new tourist destinations

*436. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of tourist inflow during the last fiscal year to India in general and Goa and Rajasthan in particular;

(b) the names of the major tourist destinations in the country which are being identified for future; and

(c) how they will be developed to attract more foreign tourists to get a Lion's share in the international tourist traffic?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Total number of foreign tourists who visited India during April 1999 to March 2000 is 25,16,790. According to the statistics available from the State Governments, the estimated number of visits of foreign tourists in the State of Goa and Rajasthan during the year 1999 were 284298 and 562685 respectively.